(c) whether Government are planning to bring out the substitute to petrol in large scale production or to leave it to private companies; and

(d) if so, what are the plans of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun is carrying out research on the use of alcohols and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for partial or complete substitution as fuel in gasoline and diesel in vehicles. A dual-fuel operation kit developed by the Institute has successfully demonstrated diesel replacement of 15—20% by alcohols in diesel buses. A large programme on utilisation of CNG as fuel in vehicles has also been initiated. Under this programme, studies will be conducted on utilisation of CNG in diesel vehicles in different regions of the country.

(c) and (d) Under the Technology Transfer Policy of the Government, the process/technique developed by R&D institutions could be licenced to any company/concern whether public or private for its commercial utilisation. In pursuance of this policy, the know-how for developing the dual-fuel operation kit has already been licenced to a private party in Gujarat.

Collection of Data on Indian Medicinal Plants

3306. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to collect data on Indian Medicinal plants;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard; and

(c) the agencies or institutions that have been assigned with this task and what is the mandate given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) A project for compilation of data-base on medicinal plants had been launched by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research long back. As a result of work done under this project, data-base on medicinal plants for the last 5 years is available in computerised form.

(c) The Publication and Information Directorate of CSIR is acting as a nodal agency to supply the bibliography and abstracts on various medicinal plants in coordination with a net-work of other CSIR laboratories, such as Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, (CIMAP), National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jammu and Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jorhat, engaged, inter-alia, in the task of data management relating to various medicinal plants.

Administrative work done by the Technical staff of IMD

3307. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that highly qualified and trained technical staff of Indian Meteorological Department have to do routine administrative work including accounting which hampers their technical work; and

(b) if so, whether Government would provide the IMD suitable staff for accounting administrative jobs, so that the professional skills of technical personnel are adequately utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) No technically qualified staff are made to perform routine administrative jobs except as a very temporary measure under unavoidable circumstances. In fact, heads of the Administration, Stores and Finance are ex-cadre posts and there has been bifurcation of administrative and technical cadres in the Non-Gazetted levels of India Meteorological Department.